Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 050843Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7693

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PINS, IS, JO

SUBJ: POLICE ONCTINUE TO BAR JEWISH PRAYERS ON TEMPLE MOUNT

REF: JERUSALEM 138

1. ISRAELI MEDIA REPORT STATEMENT BY POLICE MINISTER SHLOMO HILLEL FEB 4 THAT EXISTING REGULATIONS PROHIBITING ORGANIZED PRAYERS BY JEWS ON TEMPLE MOUNT (HARAM ES-SHARIF) REMAIN IN EFFECT. HILLEL'S REMARKS WERE IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FROM LIKUD MEMBER OF JERUSALEM CITY COUNCIL THAT POLICSQALTER POLICY IN WAKE OF COURT RULING (REFTEL) THAT JEWS HAVE RIGHT TO PRAY ON MOUNT. HILLEL REPORTEDLY CITED A 1970 HIGH COURT RULING CONNECTION WITH SIMILAR REQUEST WHICH STATED THAT "A SPECIAL SITUATION" INVOLVING POLITICAL AND SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS EXISTED IN WHICH GOVT HAD POWER TO DECIDE ON APPROPRIATE STEPS. HILLEL NOTED POLICE REGULATIONS ISSUED IN INTEREST OF MAINTAINING PEACE AND PUBLIC ORDER ON EMPLE MOUNT.

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2. WE NOTE LOCAL ARABIC PRESS AND JORDANIAN RADIO NEWS REPORTS

HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO RECENT COURT RULING AS GRANTING RIGHT OF JEWS TO PRAY IN AL-AQSA MOSQUE. EVEN IF GOI WERE TO CHANGE RULES, WE CONSIDER IT INCONCEIVABLE THAT SUCH CHANGE WOULD PERMIT JEWS TO PRAY IN AL-AQSA. IN ANY EVENT, WE HOPE HILLEL STATAMENT HELP ASSUAGE ARAB CONCERN. NEWLIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: JEWS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, COURT DECISIONS, PLACES OF WORSHIP

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 05 JAN 1976 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976 JERUSA00168

Document Number: 1976JERUSA00168
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A Film Number: D760044-0951 From: JERUSALEM Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760185/aaaacxji.tel Line Count: 67

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION NEA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 76 JERUSALEM 138 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: morefirh

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 13 MAY 2004

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <14 MAY 2004 by morefirh>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MÁY 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: POLICE ONCTINUE TO BAR JEWISH PRAYERS ON TEMPLE MOUNT TAGS: PBOR, PINS, IS, JO
To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006